

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-45, 47-64, 66-78 and 80 were pending and claims 46, 65 and 79 were canceled in the present application before the amendment as set forth above. By this Amendment, claims 1-29, 33-45, 77, 78, and 80 are canceled.

The March 18, 2004 Office Action rejected claims 1, 2, 11, 15-17, 20-22, 77, 78 and 80 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,118,937 to Hillenkamp et al (hereinafter "Hillenkamp"), claims 1-5, 11, 12, 15-22, 77, 78 and 80 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,104,028 to Hunter et al (hereinafter "Hunter"), claims 1, 2, 11, 12, 15-17, 20-22 77, 78 and 80 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Krutchinsky et al, Journal of Rometry, 1995, Vol. 30, pp. 375-379 (hereinafter "Krutchinsky"), and claims 1, 2, 6-9, 11-17, 20-23, 28, 29, 33-37, 39-45, 77, 78 and 80 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Loo, Applied Chemistry, 1996, (hereinafter "Loo").

Furthermore, claims 3-5, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Krutchinsky as applied to claims 1, 2, 11, 12, 15-17, 20-22, 77, 78 and 80 above, and further in view of Hunter as explained above. Moreover, claims 6-10, 13, 14, 23-29 and 33-45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Krutchinsky as applied to claims 1, 2, 11, 12, 15-17, 20-22, 77, 78 and 80 above, and further in view of Strahler et al, International Journal of Mass Spectrometry and Ion Processes, 1997, Vol. 169/170, pp. 111-126. Additionally, claims 10, 24-27 and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Loo as applied to claims 1 or 23 above, and further in view of Cramer et al, International Journal of Mass Spectrometry and Ion Processes, 1997, Vol. 169/170, pp. 51-67.

However, the Examiner indicated that "claims 30-32, 47-64 and 66-76 are allowed."

Applicants very appreciate the Examiner's careful review of the application, and indication of allowability of claims 30-32, 47-64 and 66-76.

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Amdt. Dated June 17, 2004
Reply to Office Action of March 18, 2004

In response, as set forth above, without acquiescing in the propriety of the Examiner's rejections and to facilitate the prosecution of the current application, claims 1-29, 33-45, 77, 78 and 80 have been canceled, which makes the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), 35 U.S.C. §102(e), and/or 35 U.S.C. §103(a) to claims 1-29, 33-45, 77, 78 and 80 moot. Applicants reserve every right in cancelled claims 1-29, 33-46, 65, and 77-80 to file continuation applications.

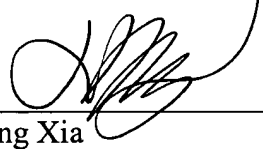
It is now believed that the application is in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the foregoing Amendment and Response place this application in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that there are any issues that can be resolved by a telephone conference, or that there are any informalities that can be corrected by an Examiner's amendment, please call the undersigned at 404.495.3678.

Respectfully submitted,
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